Illinois Early Learning Council
Family and Community Engagement Meeting

July 22, 2015 • 11am-1pm

Toll-Free Dial-in Number: 1-866-802-6672
Participant Passcode: 247 437

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
    - Approved minutes from May 8, 2015
    - Attendees:
        - Nubia Rodriguez (DCFS), Veronica Mercado (COFI), Vicki Hodges (ISBE), Joy Bah (YWCA Lake County), Penny Smith (ISBE), Lori Longueville (CCR&R-Carterville), Shauna Ejeh (IL Head Start Collaborative), Christine Nicpon (Latino Policy Forum), Toni Porter (INCCRA), Donna Emmons (ISBE), Rose Gallagher (Ounce), Carmen Garcia (Ounce), Julia Zhu (Ounce), Erik Sandberg (DCFS/Statewide Provider Database), Lauren Walker (DCFS/Statewide Provider Database), TeeNeka Jones (Early Childhood Advocate), Mario Garcia (Onward House), Adrienne Stewart (CPS), Jill Bradley (IAFC), Choua Vue (IAFC), Leonette Coates (IAFC), Leah Pouw (IAFC), Carie Bires (Ounce), Maria Whelan (IAFC), Beth Lakier (One Hope United), Sergio Hernandez (Early Childhood Advocate), Peggy Kiefer (Naperville School District), Fiona Anderson (Heartland), Christy Serrano (McCormick Foundation), Bryan Stokes (OECD), Angela Bailey (BPI), Reyna Hernandez (ISBE), Marianne Pokorny (YWCA Chicago)
            - Unknown callers at 11:15 am, 11:17 am, and 12:06 pm
- Presentation
    - Erik Sandberg, Northwestern University *Statewide Provider Database*
    - Discussion of the presentation

- Questions from FCE members:
  - Ability of database to share info with other databases?
    - No, SPD not designed for this functionality
  - Ability to track if client utilizes a referral?
    - No, SPD designed to share info, the person making the referral would need to follow-up with client
  - How to update program info?
    - Providers can reach out to SPD staff to make program updates (users can't do editing because data is protected)
  - Should SDP staff consider using "placeholders" again?
    - In past staff have used this to enter a large group of providers, then over time get in touch with agencies and populate the details afterwards
- Feedback from FCE members
  - "Sliding scale" in many EC programs is actually the co-pay, public funding streams (Head Start, PreK, CCAP)
    - Suggestion: Adding Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) as a payment source; ideally have it be a searchable field. FCE can help support communication with IDHS-Child Care Bureau to facilitate this
  - Staff information: staff licenses/credentials/certifications
    - Suggestion: Add ExceleRate system to options
      - ***At next meeting, we'll put SDP on agenda for follow-up. We will provide feedback on SPD Info's Early Childhood resource section***

- Discussion
  - Daily Vroom™ Smartphone App
    - OECD considering using and supporting this early childhood/parenting app
    - Free download at http://www.joinvroom.org/
    - Feedback:
      - Janice at E. St Louis IZ been using for 4 months. Everyone enjoys it.
      - Spanish language not available.
      - Can programs customize the messages/alerts?

- Who would be the host? (e.g., OECD, CCR&R's, Innovation Zones, Community Systems Development groups)
- Updates
  1. Early Learning Council
     - Executive Committee, *Maria Whelan & George Davis*
       - Grand Victoria funding consultants to have discussions with Exec Committee. Plan to present report to next Full ELC meeting.
     - ELC Annual Report/FCE Contributions, *Saleem Hue Penny*
       - Summarized research, recommendations, collaborations of FCE members
     - Relevant issues from other ELC committees, *open to FCE members*
       - N/A
  2. Subcommittee Updates, Q/A
     - Principles and Practices
       - OECD/Toni Porter event
       - Juliet Bromer presented on the FPTRQ. Basically OECD looking for a tool to assess Family and Community Engagement in Excelerate. Authors looked nationwide in developing it, unable to extend it much to school-settings. Also met with staff regarding details of how tool compares to current assessment measures.
         - ***At next meeting will have presentation on TA for Family and Community Engagement Award of Excellence***
     - All Families Served
       - Priority Population Workgroups
       - Big picture is to understand user experience of various EC systems. Have developed a template for "strategy memos". Each workgroup will produce a strategy memo to feed up to FCE and ELC. This work has potential to contribute to ELC's renewed focus on engaging most vulnerable populations
  3. Innovation Zone Updates
     - Four new Innovation Zones: Altgeld, Austin, Elgin, Englewood. On a compressed schedule, compared to first round.
     - Innovation Zones submitted principles of its approach to OECD, including:
       - *Keep it Simple, Use Data to Guide Progress, Get Outside the Building, Keep Kids First, No Failure Only Learning, Start Small Grow to Adapt, Celebrate Small Wins*
     - ***Before next meeting will share Innovation Zone report with FCE members, detailing accomplishments of each community.***
     - Other successes: IZ starting to gain community recognition, other partners and funders expressing interest. This work has potential to influence ELC's charge of supporting a unified system.
  4. State Updates

- State Budget (FCE Co-chairs)
  - United Way has developed survey about impact across social service sector. IAFC has developed survey about parent/provider experience.
  - June 30, 2015: Rauner Administration filed emergency rules to change 4 requirements to CCAP
    - 1) All families must be compliant with child support enforcement, for all members counted in your family size. Has been tried in NY and PA, both aborted this immediately, no capacity to process.
    - 2) All relatives who care for children will be required to have background checks for themselves and every adult member in their families. Main families using relative caregivers are low-wage, school-age. Barrier
    - 3) Co-pay increases
    - 4) Effective July 1st, for new applications, the only people eligible (only about 10% of current caseload falls into these groups):
      - Cash TANF grant
      - Headed by teen parent
      - Special needs (as defined/documented in rules)
      - Max income at/below 50% of Federal Poverty Line (single mom + 2 kids = $9,000/yr)
  - Many CCR&R's not processing July enrollment yet because of CCAP. Won't know effects yet. Anywhere from 20-35% of new CCAP applications happen in September.
  - Childcare (funding) is foundation of EC systems. So as child care goes, so do other systems in our state. Head Start and other systems that blend/braid funding will not be able to function.
  - No additional state updates (i.e., OECD, IDHS, DCFS, ISBE, CPS)

- Next Steps
  - Important that we all put a child's face on this issue.
  - Stay motivated.
  - Work hard.
  - Create public outcry.